REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner RoDee for indicating that Claim 4 is allowed.

Applicants also thank Examiner RoDee for conducting the kind and courteous discussion with Applicants' representative, Daniel R. Evans, on February 2, 2006. The content of the discussion is reflected in the amendments to the Claims and the following remarks.

Claims 1-6, 11, 13-15, and 19-20 are pending. Claim 1 is amended to specify that "said resin layer covers each of said core particles and comprises carbon particles dispersed therein." Support for this amendment is found in the Specification on page 18, line 30 through page 19, line 24. It is noted that dimethylsilicone resin, toluene, γ-amino-triethoxysilane, and carbon black "were mixed and thoroughly dispersed with a homomixer" (see page 19, lines 7-9). Accordingly, it is believed that this amendment is adequately supported in the originally filed Specification. No new matter is believed to be added upon entry of the amendment. Upon entry of the amendment, allowed Claims 1-6, 11, 13-15, and 19-20 will be pending.

The rejections of any one of Claims 1-3, 5-6, 11, 13-15, and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over any combination of Saito (US 5,496,673), Tamamura (US 4,426,247), Chowdry (US 5,102,767), and Shintani (US 5,204,204) are respectfully traversed.

The Office has relied on the disclosure of Saito in order to support both rejections of obviousness. In particular, the Office has taken the position that Saito suggests the presently claimed carrier because Saito discloses a carrier containing ferrite particles having a coating of a silicone type resin, wherein the silicone type resin is coated with carbon black particles.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to clearly distinguish the presently claimed carrier from the carrier disclosed by Saito.

For example, Saito discloses a carrier for the developer of electrostatic latent images, and exemplifies a carrier that contains ferrite particles coated with a silicone type resin (SR 2410, Toray Silicone), in which the silicone type resin **coating** is then **coated** with **carbon black particles** having an average particle diameter of 13 nm (see Saito at col. 4, lines 24-34). It may be true that the silicone type resin is crosslinked, as evidenced by the text appearing on column 10, lines 27-30 of Tamamura. It may also be true that Saito discloses that the ferrite particles have an average particle diameter of 70 μm.

However, this is unlike the presently claimed carrier for a developer for developing an electrostatic image, comprising core particles having a weight average particle diameter of 48 to 50 μm, and a resin layer comprising a crosslinked silicone resin; wherein said resin layer covers each of said core particles and comprises carbon particles dispersed therein; and wherein said carbon particles have a number average particle diameter of 0.01-0.1 μm.

It is believed that none of Tamamura, Chowdry, or Shintani provide a suggestion that when combined with Saito would sustain a prima facie case of obviousness.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge the same and withdraw this rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

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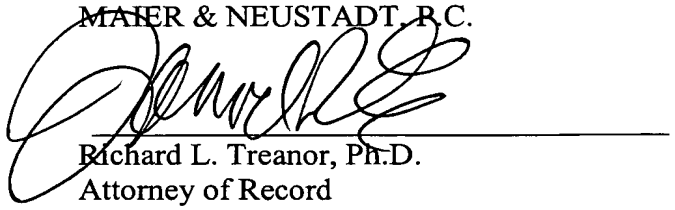

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